

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "Tim Stabler" <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>
Subject: [1114] address
Message-ID: <47F3E50C03@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

Does George De Grazio of Hambrew have an Email address? I did not see him in this group.

Control-Z got me again with Digest 202. Someone said I could use some other text editor but I have no idea how to do that so my digest stopped with Rev Dobbs address.

72 de Tim WB9NLZ

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: John_Foote_at_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com
Subject: [1130] Battery info
Message-ID: <9511088184.AA818472683@mv1smtp.ccgate.ml.nec.com>

Thanks to everyone for the quick answer to my battery question.

I don't think I'll burn down the house now.

I'm going to try my darndest to get on the air from my room at the motel in Lake George, New York, Sunday afternoon or evening and Monday night (after sales Meetings).

It will be interesting to find how this little setup of mine will work.

72 de KR4GL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [1124] Charging Gel Cells & using a diode
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9512081350.D17164-0100000@w3eax.umd.edu>

I think it's a good idea - find a big, high current diode (alternator diodes do well) and use it to drop 0.7 volts from the supply to the battery (ies). When the power goes out, which it undoubtedly will, the batteries will feel no compulsion to attempt to back feed the now-dead power supply.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
** Yes, you CAN do VHF contests with 25W and omni antennas **
Still stuck at 138 countries confirmed on HF w/dipoles...

72 & 73 from lovely suburban DC 301-549-1022 weekends/evenings

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: KT3A@aol.com
Subject: [1137] Club Project Regen Rcvr
Message-ID: <951208200102_48721830@mail02.mail.aol.com>

I'm not sure how simple you want the project.
Rich, N3III wrote a short article for the QRPSCP
newsletter, QRP Gazette, about building a
simple receiver using an NE602 and a crystal.
This is not a regen, but I do like your idea!
It was intended for the folks who never built any
thing in their life. Easy and fun to do. If you're
interested send me your address and I mail you
a copy.
Ten-Tec had a real nice regen kit for a small price.

72 de cameron, kt3a QRP-L 7

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Dale Hall <102603.30@compuserve.com>
Subject: [1097] Digest problem
Message-ID: <951208050944_102603.30_HHU72-1@CompuServe.COM>

Tim,

I too had the problem of seemingly receiving only a part of Digest 201. As it
turned out I had actually received the whole thing.

When I tried to read it with the DOS Edit command I could only get to message
951 as you did. I have two other text readers. When I tried those readers it
worked fine. It was just the DOS Editor that had problems.

As you probably read on the list, a CTRL Z had been added to file 951 which told
DOS "end of file". I guess my other text editors do not care.

One text editor I have is called "View" and the other is "Word Perfect".
You might try a different editor in the future if this happens again.

de Dale KB0WZ 148

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: ruswhite@netwest.com (Russell W. White)
Subject: [1095] exam
Message-ID: <199512080513.WAA13369@saguaro.netwest.com>

This is a bit off of the subject, but this is my last resort. Where can I find, for downloading, a program for studying for, and taking practice tests for, the General Class License?

The General test question pool was updated July, 1994 and the only programs I have found have been for the earlier question pool.

73 & tnx, Russ

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|-----|
| Russ White AB7JX (ex WB1GQG) QRP-ARCI NORCAL NEQRP |
| Phoenix AZ                                     |
|                                     QRP-L #179 |
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From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: klh@cbqaa.cb.att.com
Subject: [1104] HB vs Kit
Message-ID: <9512081312.AA04449@ig1.att.att.com>

Been there. That is: if a person blows the glass envelopes for the vacuum tubes in his homebrew rig, he deserves 5000 points. He has missed many contests while 'brewin'. But, I'm not sure that growing your own semiconductor crystals for a solid state rig merits that score. Just another cotton-pickin opinion.

73,
Kaye KD8EK klh@cbqaa.cb.att.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: rflight@VNET.IBM.COM
Subject: [1103] Homebrew
Message-ID: <199512081224.HAA41173@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

In the interest of exposing my anonymity, I will succumb to my emotions, and offer up my perspective. Nothing like beating a dead horse :-)

As a Receiver design engineer, I likely have an ability quite beyond that of the average ham, and there are indeed many within our ranks are skilled in the art better than I. There are however many excellent operators who all but overwhelmed by the notion of conceiving a receiver or transmitter architecture in functional block diagram form much less doing detailed circuit design and analysis. Members from both groups are likely following this dialog. Yet even I have failed to acknowledge the neophytes attempting to understand the notion of QRP and whether it is an appropriate element of the hobby that they can share.

QRP (presumably the focus of this forum) is an art form that pushes the envelope in all directions. Truly the "king" of QRP must possess both a mastery of the engineering sciences, and immeasurable operating skill. I doubt that we are yet intimate enough with one another to agree upon who comes closest to such a standard. Several seem to stand out as "exceptional" as one follows the various subjects under discussion, but clearly no one person has risen to the position of "Mr. Know-It-All" (meant to be a title of respect, and not the sarcastic moniker it might imply).

So how does one level the playing field such that all can compete with fairness to those who lack specialized skill? QRP almost by necessity demands some level of familiarity with diagonal cutters and soldering pencils. It is quite out of the ordinary to convince a radio manufacturer that his customers want transmitters with minimum output power. The notion simply sounds a bit too contradictory in marketing circles. Nonetheless; there is a need among this group at least for such commodities. Therefore we build what we can't buy. God bless the kit manufacturers who give those who lack engineering talent an opportunity to shine in their own area of expertise... that of keen operating skill.

You should all now have a slight sense of where my heart is, so I offer the following philosophy on what should be termed homebrew. Quite simply, and hardware that requires more than the token "some assembly required", or "batteries not included", or "plug-and-play" is indeed homebrew, and puts all on equal footing. Here is why:

If all build their equipment from kits, some will do better than others, and the best will perform best. Some will have trouble, seek help getting it up and running, and learn far more than they bargained for in the process. A grand reward in its own right. Engineering skill is not required, but lots of

TLC, and careful attention to details is. I enjoy building kits over designing my own when I want something that looks nice. I have seen a great many kits, or more accurately "kit attempts" than were abandoned simply because the builder lacked the tenacity to delve into the instructions more carefully. It really does take a higher level of skill to build kits than it does to operate appliances... although I will acknowledge that HT programming is one possible exception :-)

A design built from a journal article or handbook would suggest that the builder has a higher confidence level. This group can tell resistors from capacitors, inductors from fuses, etc. The confidence therefore is likely deserved, and if not, this person too will learn much more than what he/she bargained for. Oh what a joy! Nonetheless; if this person were building a kit, one would expect a high probability of success.

Now you get those of us with real engineering talent. This stuff is so simple, that we just throw stuff together and know that it will work...

"Hmmm. now why isn't that doing what I want it to do???"

Well... we sometimes (nearly always) think "I can do better than that!", which produces one of two results... We can... or we can't. If we are able to get another percent or two of efficiency, a half dB or so better sensitivity, extended receiver dynamic range, razor sharp selectivity, et al, we darn sure deserve accolades for such a feat... If you don't believe me... just ask us :-)

The good news, is that the kits are pretty good designs already, and although we may be able to engineer slightly better equipment performance, there will always be an operator out there with just slightly better hearing and a whole lot better operating skill. They were developing operating skill while we were developing engineering skill. So guess what... we achieve roughly equivalent results.

If those of us who homebrew from the pencil up do a less than adequate job and are too bull headed to admit it, we end up operating with inferior equipment... Gee... too bad... Guess who has the edge now? It is important to recognize that this was my choice. I too could have built the kit, but I had this wild idea that I could do better than that... I took that risk and lost. I have no right to penalize the kit builder for my mistakes.

In theory; if all built kits, all would be on equal ground. This is true. However; if I extend myself, and go beyond the kit phase, there should be some reward for success. If no reward exists, motivation is suppressed. If there is a reward, and I win... everybody wins, because the technology (kits) gets refined to bring them up to "state of the art".

More important than all of the above; kit building is an added dimension to our hobby, that encourages (perhaps only because of the cost savings) those just entering our ranks to grow beyond passing the test. It is a great way to

get your feet wet with some level of confidence toward success. From its beginnings, ham radio continues to push new frontiers in communications technology. It is more difficult than ever to jump start beginners, and to categorize kits as something short of homebrew is arrogant and just plain wrong. It creates an attitude that kit builders are something less than up to standards. They are a subclass of the amateur radio community. Bah humbug... I say let the kit building begin... Have no fear... if I tackle a kit, I'm surely going to try to make it better... I'll lose a lot of good operating time failing in the effort, the result will not look as pretty, and when I do succeed, I'll be so rusty in my operating skill that I (and most certainly you) will be unable to detect any significant improvement.

You can wake up now... I'm done!

Happiest of holidays to all, and always remember... If you operate QRP, 90 percent of the time performance is limited by the skill of the receiving operator, the other 10 percent of the time... a keyboard at the transmitting end might help :-)

73 de N3G0 / Raleigh, NC

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Steve KG7PV <kg7pv@teleport.com>
Subject: [1121] homebrew
Message-ID: <199512081736.JAA15165@desiree.teleport.com>

I think "homebrew" means you built it yourself not that you designed it yourself. Having done kits and scratch built rigs (both ugly and homebrew etched boards, I don't care if its a kit or not - if you build it, it is homebrew!

73

Steve Miller KG7PV
Norcal # 308, QRP-L #109

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: K5ERJ@aol.com
Subject: [1128] Homebrew
Message-ID: <951208145126_128408001@emout05.mail.aol.com>

My sincere Thanks to N3G0 for the thoughtful insight into the controversy brought on by the latest thread, "Homebrew-And The Definition Thereof".

I enjoyed reading his perspective and found many of his thoughts coincide with my own.

As one who is "Technically Challenged" the dream of designing from the ground up remains simply that....a dream. I take my comfort in building the excellent kits that are available and knowing that somewhere along the 40 year trail, I learned how to tell a capacitor from a resistor.

To me, regardless of what equipment the operator uses....the skill of the contest remains in technique.

73 es Happy Holidays

Ed K5ERJ.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: bmitchel@kodak.com (Brad Mitchell)
Subject: [1123] Homebrewed
Message-ID: <9512081809.AA22139@iiatasun.cba.Kodak.COM>

Here's a good test: Please try this this weekend....

Next time you get on the air, and you proudly say..

=====
"Rig here is homebrew".
=====

If you don't get a wrenching feeling in your stomach by saying it, and you don't feel embarrassed when the other op says.. Wow that's great, I really admire people that can do that.., closest I ever got to that was I built a few Heathkit's in the past, it must be homebrew.

Have a great weekend, and 73

Brad WB8YGG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995

From: paul1@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca (Paul Erickson)
Subject: [1091] IMA5A
Message-ID: <9512080331.AA06203@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca>

Has anyone heard of IMA5A? Thought I heard this during the CQWWCW.

cheers, Paul
VE7CQK
email: paul1@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: ae4ic@nr.infi.net (BOB KELLOGG)
Subject: [1092] Kit vs HB
Message-ID: <199512080336.WAA06096@moe.infi.net>

Guys,

Be careful, now, you might step on my toes. I did buy the boards, collect the parts and build a Sierra. But, I'm not a designer, and I envy those guys who can design their own rigs. There's still a big difference.

There is quite a range of interests in our hobby, and some of us like to be challenged more than others. My Sierra is pretty ugly, and I bet it doesn't work as well as some. But, I don't care, I love it and I'm still working on it.

Homebrewing is like golf, or art, there are many people who participate to varying degrees, but there are only a few Picassos or Palmers. Those with lesser experience or ability can still appreciate the work of the masters. And, by building the kits, we can experience the pleasure of accomplishment.

It's the pleasure that we're after, because this is a hobby, after all. What ever it takes to make it fun is good (assuming ethics here).

That's the reason that contest formats should vary. Everyone should get a chance to participate to the fullest with his baby. He or she should be able to get credit for and to be recognized for what they enjoy doing.

Bob Kellogg, AE4IC

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "Bill Kelsey - N8ET - Kanga US" <kanga@brutus.bright.net>

Subject: [1136] Kit vs Homebrew from a kit manufacturer
Message-ID: <199512090045.TAA27625@brutus.bright.net>

I have been watching the kit vs homebrew thread (seems like it keeps coming up!) with some interest. I would like to throw a couple of comments in.....

It seems like we are trying to split too many hairs. If the builder thinks it is home brew, then it is home brew. Case closed.... That way the tech whizzes do their "homebrew", and the first timer with the Norcal 40 also has a "Homebrew" rig... and they both probably put an equivilant amount of effort into getting it to work.

I don't have a problem with calling most of the kits today "homebrew". The ones I am intimately familiar with are most definately not in the old Heathkit style with step-by-step instructions and pictures. Most now have a bag of parts, a schematic, and a layout (which can sometimes add to the challange!). The text documentation is not step by step on what to mount where. There are of couse exceptions to that - Wayne Burdick and co have done some outstanding manuals...

The next kit I produce is going to be what I call "a bag of parts" kit. It will be for the TX part of the recent article by KK7B in Nov. QST on the 20m cw xcvr. The kit builder will have to build it ugly style as in the article or make his own PC board. In my opinion, anyone who builds that "kit" will have a "homebrew" rig.

On the homebrew contest that Howie just announced -

I am sure Howie's intent was to get people on the air and operating with equipment they have built - not some appliance they paid for at the local radio store. Lets not split hairs on what is homebrew - let's get in the test and see what can be done with the equipment we have built. I intend to operate with gear I have built. I've done a lot of contests, but this will be the first major one I will have attempted with gear I have built.... If there is a group with Norcal 40's or whatever that wants to have a "side bet", then have at it - the more the merrier. (My guess is that the R2 operators are going to clean up in the overall event! ;)) That is what will get the activity up, and thats what it's all about.

Get behind the effort Howie has started, talk it up, and heat up those irons!

One other thing - I sent Howie a note last nite offering to provide the "bag of parts" kit mentioned above as a prize... You have about

two months to tweak your rigs....

73

73 - Bill Kelsey - N8ET

Kanga US

kanga@bright.net

419-423-4604

<http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/kanga/>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995

From: bmitchel@kodak.com (Brad Mitchell)

Subject: [1138] kits homebrew, and the problem with society :-)

Message-ID: <9512090135.AA24578@howdy2.cba>

Three cheers for John K6QQ!!!! His views are mine, and he's from the left coast no less! Amazing..

I usually don't use someone else's saying but dit dit to you John, and keep the mind alive and delineated from the norm.

Over.

Oh yeah.. 73 Brad WB8YGG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995

From: john.moriarity@com2bbs.com (John Moriarity)

Subject: [1134] Kits vs. Homebrew

Message-ID: <aa.35772.200@com2bbs.com>

OK, already! I've been following this discussion long enough, and it doesn't seem to be getting anywhere. It's time for my two bits worth.

First, some background to let you know where I'm coming from. I'm a college graduate electrical engineer. Until I got too old for anyone to hire, I spent most of my life as a circuit designer. Most of that time was as a radio frequency circuit designer. What I'm trying to say is that I'm qualified to design and build my own equipment, and sometimes I do. I also build kits. It's enjoyable and relaxing, but it's not the *same* thing.

Now I'm prepared to accept a definition of "homebrewed" as including anything you solder together yourself. After all, not many of the "other" homebrewers grow their own grain and hops. I do think, however, that we need to talk a little about accomplishment.

Ceertainly most of us will agree that having a QSO with a Sierra you built is a

different (I think higher) level of accomplishment than making the same contact with a QRP+. Making the contact with a reig you built from an article in a magazine or handbook is (in my opinion) an even higher level. Finally, there is the QSO made with a rig you *designed* and built from scratch.

Alll of these QSOs are enjoyable, and the rig you use doesn't make you a greater or lesser person. They simply don't represent the same level of accomplishment. You choose the level you are comfortable with, it doesn't matter a bit to me.

The statements made that there is no difference between a kit builder and anyone else, is simply not true! We had better hope that a big difference exists, or there wouldn't be any kits for us to build. I think we need one more category in our discussion: The Home Designer.

Consider Wayne Burdick (sorry, Wayne). He is not a radio design engineer by profession, but he is one damn fine Home Designer. Think of all the kits that have been built from his designs. I think he has reached a very high level of accomplishment.

I get tired of all this egalitarian nonsense in our society. The idea that everyone is entitled to feeling the same level of acomplishment, regardless of the amount of effort they care to expend. I guess this is just a demonstration of entropy in action. It all goes well with a hobby that has slipped to multiple choice exams, and will soon allow newcomers to *buy* an "old" callsign so they wont feel embarrassed by their new ones. (or people who brag about their *accomplishment* in getting a low qrp-1 number.)

Whew! Thanks for letting me rant... I can feel my blood pressure dropping already.

Curmudgeonly Yours,

John, K6QQ (Proudly qrp-1 #196, I think)

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| Message Submitted by: john.moriarity@com2bbs.com
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+-----+
| COM2: BBS                | sysop: Sean Azhadi      |
| San Diego, CA.          | Internet: sysop@com2bbs.com |
| 619.737.0495 BBS 12 Nodes | Info: info@com2bbs.com     |
| 619.737.9659 voice       |                               |
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The contents of this message do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this BBS, it's operators or sponsors... But they should.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: ddoyle@arinc.com
Subject: [1115] Late Digests
Message-ID: <95Dec8.111058est.30739@interlock.arinc.com>

Howdy all,

From one who receives the digests I appreciate early posting of upcoming events. However, it seems as though my digest is arriving two days late now for whatever reasons. As a result I missed Stan's N6ULU posting of FOX schedule change, no real big deal, I found him anyway.

On behalf of myself, and maybe others who are also receiving their digests late, I am making a friendly request for even earlier postings of upcoming events, not just the FOX hunts.

I enjoy this list and don't intend to offend anyone with my request and I won't be offended if others think it is unreasonable.

As for the HUNT, I cranked up my TS-430s(bought it before I knew anything about QRP and can't afford anything else now) about 0250z and heard Stan at approximately 7.0419 right away. Good sig for most part with some fading. Listened until I heard him call CQ several times with no response then jumped in for the kill at about 0305z. He came back after first call, giving me a 559. I was a little stingy and returned 449 due to the fading. Continue to listened off and on for the next hour but lost him at 0400z. I use a 40m Dipole/almost inverted Vee at 20-25 ft.

72 - Don Doyle KC5EQC QRP-L - #264

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Dennis Blanchard <djade@hampstead.k12.nh.us>
Subject: [1093] Manufacturing Surplus parts.
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.01.951207224655.djade@p_jade.hampstead.k12.nh.us>

Someone was asking about enclosures for home projects etc. I didn't make a note of whom. In any case, if you check out our Web Page (below) we have a

few items there that might be of interest. All of the items are new but surplus from one of our manufacturing runs. I believe one of our readers, Bill Acito, purchased one and would attest to the quality.

If you don't have a browser, I can put together something in ASCII and post it here if desired.

Also, we have started a monthly special on the Web Page, sometimes the item is inexpensive, other times it is one of our more pricey items. Have a look.

Oh, I have also posted a Christmas Poem that I wrote some years ago. It is on our humor page. Enjoy and have a great holiday season folks.

72'

Dennis, K1YPP
Hampstead, NH

Name: Dennis Blanchard, Jade Products, Inc.
Phone: 1-800-523-3776 (1-800-JADEPRO) FAX: (603) 329-4499
Engineer, (K1YPP) 603-329-6995
See our Web Page:
<http://www.hampstead.k12.nh.us/~djade/>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Michael Connor <mikec@primenet.com>
Subject: [1119] Monday's Fox
Message-ID: <199512081710.KAA21617@usr2.primenet.com>

Gang,

I'm posting this a little early so those receiving in digest mode will be sure to receive it.

I'm the FOX for Monday night, 8 - 10 MST, 0300 - 0500UTC
Here is my operating schedule:

0300 - 0330 7.110 +/- QRM

0330 - 0500 7.040 +/- QRM

Rig will be an OHR400 at 4 watts into a resonant dipole at 35ft.
strung up north to south.

For an added twist, and in the spirit of QRP;
If propagation cooperates and there is a break in the action around

0400 - 0415 I will reduce
my power to 400mW, send 6 V's followed by my call and a short 6 word
"special Fox Night message"
followed by 6 more V's and my call. I will then turn the power back up
to 4 watts and continue
Foxing. Hunters who successfully copy the "special message" and e-mail
it to me direct at
mikec@primenet.com will receive special recognition in the log
results. I may even issue a
prize for most "miles per watt".

Good luck and may the Propagation God of your choice smile upon you!

72,
Mike
NQ7K

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "Lau, Zack, KH6CP" <zlau@arrl.org>
Subject: [1113] QRP Contesting
Message-ID: <30C85D38@arrl.org>

WA8LCZ wrote:

>Practically all homebrew rigs are harder to use, then practically any
>commerical rig. Try QSYing to 15m to see if there is any activity on a
>homebrew rig. Either change the band module or change rigs. it takes time.
On
>a commercial rig, it takes only a one button to toggle the VFO to B, a few
>seconds at most. Any homebrew rig is more of a challenge to use in a
contest,
>especially if the band is crowded and strong signals are overloading your
>single conversion superhet or DC receiver.

Actually, really serious contesters have at least two radios and
use two bands simultaneously. If you are truly serious, try
tuning *both* rigs simultaneously. Thats how I got some very
good scores a few years ago in the ARRL SS running QRP with
a bunch of wires outside my 2nd floor apartment.

Yes, overloading can be a problem, particularly if you operate
extremely close to a multi-op stations. Last couple of years I've
been operating on the same mountain as W1TKZ and WB1GQR
in the VHF contests--awfully strong signals. The best solution seems
to be to use a single conversion phasing receiver with high level

mixers. Done properly, I measure a two-tone IMD dynamic range of 100 dB despite the SSB bandwidth, a bit better than anything on the market. I don't think all the gear I built hurts my score :-).

I don't see how complicated rules are going to help competition. Some people only have a couple hours a week for ham radio--they aren't going to use it to figure out a complicated set of rules to place first in a category with no competition. Seems easier to figure out the categories *after* the contest with a computer to make sure everyone gets their certificate. :-).

Maybe you ought to try moving to CT so you can win the QRP ARCI QSO Party--worked for me!

Zack Lau KH6CP/1.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: John_Foote_at_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com
Subject: [1117] Quick battery question
Message-ID: <9511088184.AA818451078@mvlsmtp.ccgate.ml.nec.com>

I got two lead acid batteries from Mouser, 6 VDC 10 ah each.

I'm going to use them in a portable operation.

Now, if I want to charge them but I don't have a "charger" can I connect them (in series) to my Astron 13.8 VDC supply through a current limiting resistor, sized to keep charging current to .1C or essentially less than 1 amp?

I assume that when the batteries are fully charged the voltage at the batteries will be about 13.8 V (2.30 v per cell) and the charging current will have fallen to essentially zero.

I've neever done this before, I think I'm right, but I've heard that lead acid batteries make a heck of a mess when forced into the extreme non-optimum mode of operation.

Has anyone with gell cell / lead acid eperience tell me any other precautions are advisable?

Thanks de KR4GL
John Foote

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [1133] Ramsey Catalog
Message-ID: <951208181805_48624430@emout04.mail.aol.com>

Hi Gang,

Ramsey has a new color catalog of their line of electronic kits and test equipment, including QRP xcvrs, shortwave receiver, nicad battery charger, capacitance/inductance meter, Peak hold LED bar graph display, oscilloscope, cw keyers, 20m QRP ssb/cw xcvr, W9GR DSP filter, UHF/VHF xcvrs, RF power amps, cw audio filter, QRP rcvrs/xmitrs, QRP to 20 watts linear amps, preamp kits, freq counters, audio generator, RF generator, all kinds of good stuff !

order - phone 1-800-446-2295
Ramsey Electronics, 793 Canning Parkway, Victor, NY 14564
info - phone 716-924-4560

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: ljones@why.net (ljones)
Subject: [1101] RS DSP
Message-ID: <19951208054526691.AAA372@dal43.why.net>

Paul...

I have one of the Radio Shack's DSP-40's. I guess for the price that I paid for it I have little to complain about. But, I do find that the unit lacks some in what it is represented to do. It has a fuzzy sound to it, but that again could be the speaker that I am using. I may need to go to a smaller speaker. When I use headphones, it loses its fuzzy sound. Right now I find myself using my built in cw filter more than the DSP. It may be just a personal thing, but the crystal filter seems to have better audio quality. I have a IC735 with the 500 Hz crystal filter added. Just my opinion...

72/73

dee-it dee-it (Texas Accent)

Larry n5osg

Larry Jones N5OSG NorTex QRP-ARCI G-QRP NorCal MI-QRP NE-QRP
4028 Random Circle
Garland Tx 75043-3250

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Mike Robinson <miker@cc.com>
Subject: [1131] RS12 power in/out
Message-ID: <9512082232.AA17480@voder.nsc.com>

I've been active on RS12 and am starting to receive
QSL's from fellow bird pluckers. One fellow indicated
100 watts on his card. He hand wrote this.

It's my understanding that RS12 is a QRP bird and that
it is considerate to use the least amount of power to
conserve the power supplies on the satellite.

Can some one shine some lite on the real operating
parameters of RS12.

How many watts can RS12 put out maximum?

```
=====
7.3 de Michael aa0ub                      | QRP:
miker@cc.com                               |     "UR HB 5W FB HR 72"
QRP-L #126 Norcal #857 CQC #180         |
=====
```

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: KE3FL@delphi.com
Subject: [1120] Thanks, protection, FOX, & HB vs Kit
Message-ID: <01HYKBTC7BVM9D5914@delphi.com>

A few things folks-

THANKS---

Thanks for all the ideas on boxes. Ten Tec, Mouser, Yard Sales, & Hamfests. I built my own. SO is my kit now trasformed into Homebrew? :)

ONE amp diode protection?---

One, someone asked about using a 1 amp diode for protection, I thought I had sent info on this to QRP-L a few days ago, well here it is again.

In the MFJ units they use a 1 amp fuse and a 1 amp diod, when I hooked it up backwards both blew out. I had to go to a three amp diode to blow the fuse without blowing the diode. Larger is better, RS sells 6 amp fuses. (Also, second bad point for MFJ: They used a circuit board trace as the 1 amp fuse! I had to replace it with a real fuse and find a place for a socket.)

Oh, and of course, I managed to hook up the MFJ backwards on Field-Day! The one and only time I've done so in 2 years of using the rig.

-

FOX---

Something happened to the digest & I now seem to get it a few days late. I am presently reading Wed & Thu Dec 6 & 7 QRP.202. SO, if you don't post a FOX notice three days in advance I won't be able to play. Sorry.

-

Kits vs Homebrew---I appoligise for this now---

Well, it's been interesting, BUT it don't mean sh.t to a tree!

I had a great deal more to say, but, ya know, it's all been said before!

Do I care if I get the same or more points in a contest because I homebrewed or homebiult a kit? Not one wit.

The real joy is in being able to tell the person on the other end, I built it myself & I don't do that in a contest, do you? Some day I want to be able to send "I designed it". I've yet to hear that one. Not that there aren't people out there who have done it, but it's rare, very VERY rare.

There are so many shades of grey involved in where we draw the line on homebrewing, that it is probably wiser to forgo the attempt & simply go about our fun, but then who ever said the majority was wise. Well, that's what I intend to do.

Oh, one LAST comment. I saw a contest where the rule was you had to use your own board, or etch your own board. I cud do that & buy the bag of parts from NN1G, so what's the difference? (Like I said, it don't mean SH.T to a tree!) Enjoy.

DEL all "HB vs Kit" (Return)
are you sure? YES! (Return)

dit dit
73 de KE3FL/Phil
:)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [1140] Theory of Regen receiver?
Message-ID: <2693.818473615@safety.ics.uci.edu>

Anyone have a quick reference to an article or short text that will give me the general idea of how the regen receiver works? A young friend of mine will get the Ten Tec 9 band regen receiver for Christmas, and I would like to help him understand it and stuff.... but I would have to know it in order to help!!

Clark
WA3JPG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Stan Goldstein <stan@cruzio.com>
Subject: [1094] thurs fox hunt results
Message-ID: <30C7C264.73E0@cruzio.com>

My kingdom for propagation !

Conditions seemed like I was underwater. Most signals were very weak and the qsb made them go away every few seconds . If you repeated my call 2 or 3 times the band went out by the time you sent your call !

In a vain , but futile attempt..

Lots of guys hung tough though:

	sent	received
k5erj	349	559
wo0q	229	439

wa9pwg	339	349
kk6mc/5	229	229
k2nf	459	559
wa5yfy	449	559
aa7qy	449	549
ac6kw	569	579
aa0xz	559	229
nz4i	229	339
k5up	549	599
ka5t	559	449
na5k	569	579
wj4p	559	559
k3ets	559	559
kc5eqc	559	449
kb0wz	559	579
ka9nsa	549	529
wb9lk	569	559
ab7hi	229	549
ng09	549	579
kj4xr	229	339
n4xxr	449	349
ak5b	569	559
nr4n	449	459
wa5ztp	339	559
wa6hhq	599	599

I was using the norcal 40 running about 4 watts and a 2 element yagi at 90 feet.

72/3 Stan, N6ULU

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
 From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
 Subject: [1129] VFO ALIGN. ON 12 VOLTS
 Message-ID: <9511088184.AA818462616@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Dear Gang:

Quick, easy question (I hope):

When aligning the vfo on a kit project (OHR,etc) will the frequency measurements vary if I use a 12.0 volt battery and then go to a 13.8 vdc regulated fixed supply?

In other words, if I calibrate my vfo within a range of frequencies by using a 12 volt battery, will the vfo range have changed when I connect the rig to a regulated 13.8 power supply? (all other things being equal, temp, etc.)

I think I know the answer - whether you have 12 volts coming in, or the 13.8 volts coming in, the on-board voltage regulator should keep the circuit supply at a constant 12 volts or so. So, the vfo frequency should not change with the power source. Yes?

Did I answer my own question? If I did, sorry for taking up the bandwidth and your time. However, I count a lot on you fine people to support my theories, ideas, schemes, etc. Thanks much!

72/73 de Dave KK5HA
QRP-L #25

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: ljones@why.net (ljones)
Subject: [1102] VHF Reflector
Message-ID: <19951208065737359.AAB384@dal13.why.net>

Hi Harry...

You mentioned something about the VHF Reflector. Seeing as how I am interested in VHF, could you list the address here and give example of how to subscribe?
72/73

dee-it dee-it (Texas Accent)

Larry n5osg

Larry Jones N5OSG NorTex QRP-ARCI G-QRP NorCal MI-QRP NE-QRP
4028 Random Circle
Garland Tx 75043-3250

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)
Subject: [1110] where is cascade errata
Message-ID: <9512081508.AA19374@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

the cascade errata is located here at qrp-1 in the
rigs/cascade/errata1.txt
i think you can get this by adding qrp-1/ to the
front of the above and asking for it here at lehigh.edu
....you can double check this in the faq file, i
believe OR from our net mavens (jim and chuck)...
i'm going out of town ALOT in the next month, maybe
longer and my time is limited. Please ONLY ask me
for stuff if u REALLY can't figure out how to get it
yourself.....my slepp is suffering with all of the
request (really).....hi
baab,n6cxb

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Jim Eshleman <lujce@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [1118] Re: address
Message-ID: <95Dec8.113208est.14493-2+75@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

> Control-Z got me again with Digest 202. Someone said I could use
> some other text editor but I have no idea how to do that so my digest
> stopped with Rev Dobbs address.

Tim & The DOS Crowd,

I corrected the archived digests and added a filter for incoming posts,
but I forgot about the messages that were already saved for Digest 202.
I've corrected Digest 202 in the archives. You should have no problem
(with the Control-Z thing anyway :-) from now on. Honest.

I have yet to go through the daily archives (Archives & Archives-old)
and correct those so beware.

73
Jim N3VXI

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: howie cahn <wb2cpu@world.std.com>
Subject: [1106] Re: Announcing: A New Homebrew QRP Contest!!
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9512080842.C5168-0100000@world.std.com>

On Thu, 7 Dec 1995, Monte Stark wrote:
>

> Might add one question....lots of folks use "ugly bug" style,
> ei: no board. You'r bound to get a question on that!
>

Hi Monte --

The idea in the contest rules was that anything that doesn't use a pc board, i.e. "ugly" or other forms of prototyping constuction, is inherently homebrew. Thanks for asking.

72/73... howie
wb2cpu@world.std.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Steve Slavsky <sslavsky@CapAccess.org>
Subject: [1108] Re: Announcing: A New Homebrew QRP Contest!!
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.951208091342.4978D-1000000@cap1.capaccess.org>

Frankly, Howie, I think we should boycott, not publicize, this event. I may be wrong, but I gathered that the overwhelming sentiment on this list was NOT to start subdividing the homebrew definition into classes depending on exactly what was made and what came in a bag. Why pick the pc board? What if I get it from FAR boards and do everything else myself?

I, personally, do not want to waste a lot of bandwidth on this, but I strongly suggest you read Nils' analysis of the HB vs Kit vs HB controversy. We simply do not need to fragment further those who are willing to put iron to solder to build. The QRP community is small enough. The subset of those who fabricate their own pcbs is smaller still.

Thanks, but no thanks for your contest offer.

73 & 72,

Steve Slavsky, N4EUK
QRP-L #143, Norcal #1118, QRP ARCI # 8802
Reston, VA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: torell@sicom.com (Kent Torell)
Subject: [1116] Re: Announcing: A New Homebrew QRP Contest!!
Message-ID: <v02130500acee10e57cff@[192.91.202.41]>

So, the contest is the same, with three classes: commercial, kit and homebrew? The power level divisions are the same; a, b and q (lookout for the homebrew kw :-)) and the band multiplier, etc. stuff? Your announcement said qrp contest, but the rules didn't explicitly say that.... clearly, most entries will be qrp, because that's the best (easiest) way to go ;-).

Also, all external audio processor, logging and keyer/key devices can be commercial, since the only determining factor is the RF sections. I think this is a good call, as it is the most difficult part...there is no question that a person doing their own rf section is homebrewing.

We need a judgement on the R2 / mini R2 direct conversion "receivers"; they only provide the final down conversion to audio, but their rf mixers would seem to count as rf components. A radio built with this kit would be a half kit, I suppose, since you have to do the vco and rf phasing networks yourself. As much as I hate to, I'll have to vote to class a receiver with an R2 kit in it as a kit class receiver :-(I can always order the kit and do my own board, although it is very difficult to ignore a nice double-sided board!

I'll give it a whirl...I certainly have poor operating skill, since I spend all my time designing and building ;-).

72, KJ7EY qrp home-brew on 40

Kent Torell torell@sicom.com 602-483-2867
SICOM 7585 E. Redfield, #202 Scottsdale, AZ 85260

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "OPS Jim KC1FB" <p01599@psilink.com>
Subject: [1111] Re: Boxes and NE 4040 questions
Message-ID: <3027516564.1.p01599@psilink.com>

Phil asked about a source of nice boxes for QRP projects...specifically for his NE 4040.

I built my 4040 in a used RS232 A/B switch box. Gutted it and had holes in the back, a nice hole for the tuning pot, and a knob to boot. You can pick up these switches NEW cheaper than an RS project box by checking generic PC suppliers.

72/73 Jim KC1FB qrp-1 #29

>DATE: Thu, 7 Dec 1995 15:32:38 EST

>FROM: KE3FL@delphi.com

>

>I would like to know if anyone has a source for nice boxes for

>QRP projects. I am looking for one for the NE 4040 kit at present

>tnx & 73 de KE3FL/Phil

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995

From: GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET (ERNEST GREGOIRE)

Subject: [1112] re: boxes for kits

Message-ID: <199512081537.KAA14617@dartvax.dartmouth.edu>

>Some of you may not know, that Ten Tec sells a large line of cases for
>projects. These make a project look great !!

>

> 72 Paul WA9PWP

>Paul Goemans WA9PWP

>4326 Clover Court Madison, WI 53711-4805

>608-274-5143 jgoemans@facstaff.wisc.edu

>

>

Hello Gang,

I used a TenTec box for an enclosure while building my 40/40.

The box is really good. I did repaint it however. I used Rustoleum
almond for a color, glossy. 5 coats after all the cutting and drilling
and filing was done. It really looks great.

de AA1IK N.E.-QRP-C. # 202 (Lead by example, It is better to)
 QRP-L member #95. (pull a string than it is to push it.)

Ernie Gregoire

RR 1 Box 221

Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information
available on request by sending me a
S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET

packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>
Subject: [1125] RE: Charging Gel Cells & using a diode
Message-ID: <51772.owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>

In message Fri, 8 Dec 1995 13:46:08 EST,
Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu> writes:

> I think it's a good idea - find a big, high current diode (alternator
> diodes do well) and use it to drop 0.7 volts from the supply to the
> battery (ies). When the power goes out, which it undoubtedly will, the
> batteries will feel no compulsion to attempt to back feed the now-dead
> power supply.

>

This is generally a good idea EXCEPT that with the .7 volt drop you have
13.1 volt charging the battery and this is not enough to properly charge a
lead acid battery. TO charge properly with a diode in series you need to
crank up the PS voltage to 14.5 V. A better way would be to put a relays
contacts in series with the battery and power the coil from the PS output
voltage so when the power supply was turned on the relay closes and connects
the battery to the power supply.

Jim K4CGY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [1126] RE: Charging Gel Cells & using a diode
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9512081434.A17315-0100000@w3eax.umd.edu>

I of course use the 14.5 volt supply (something variable), but upon
second thought i think I like your idea better!

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
** Yes, you CAN do VHF contests with 25W and omni antennas **
Still stuck at 138 countries confirmed on HF w/dipoles...

72 & 73 from lovely suburban DC 301-549-1022 weekends/evenings

On Fri, 8 Dec 1995, James C. Owen, III wrote:

> In message Fri, 8 Dec 1995 13:46:08 EST,
> Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu> writes:
>
> > I think it's a good idea - find a big, high current diode (alternator
> > diodes do well) and use it to drop 0.7 volts from the supply to the
> > battery (ies). When the power goes out, which it undoubtedly will, the
> > batteries will feel no compulsion to attempt to back feed the now-dead
> > power supply.
> >
> This is generally a good idea EXCEPT that with the .7 volt drop you have
> 13.1 volt charging the battery and this is not enough to properly charge a
> lead acid battery. TO charge properly with a diode in series you need to
> crank up the PS voltage to 14.5 V. A better way would be to put a relays
> contacts in series with the battery and power the coil from the PS output
> voltage so when the power supply was turned on the relay closes and connects
> the battery to the power supply.
>
>
> Jim K4CGY
>
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: [1139] Re: Club Project Regen Rcvr
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951208185635.25497D-100000@ume>

On Fri, 8 Dec 1995 KT3A@aol.com wrote:
> Ten-Tec had a real nice regen kit for a small price.
>
> 72 de cameron, kt3a QRP-L 7
>

My 8 year old put the ten tec together himself last winter (with dad
watching). It motivated him to get his license recently and he is using
it as part of his science project on "propagation".

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E)	*	VE6GK
Clinical Assistant Professor	*	NorCal 519 ARCI 7650 GQRP 8329
Faculty of Medicine, Univ. of Calgary	*	"Power is no substitute for skill"

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
Subject: Delivery Report (failure) for TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu

Message-id: <"swiba9.uni.344:08.12.95.19.38.51"@swiba9.unibas.ch>

----- Start of body part 1

This report relates to your message:

Subject: Re: message,

Message-ID: <v01510109acee452c5a6e@[131.152.14.21]>,

To: Tim Stabler <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

of Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:46 +0100

Your message was not delivered to TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu
for the following reason:

Unknown Address

Nameserver error for iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu: Non existent
host/domain (NXDOMAIN)

***** The following information is directed towards the local administrator
***** and is not intended for the end user

*

* DR generated by: mta swiba9.unibas.ch

* in /PRMD=3Dswitch/ADMD=3D400net/C=3DCH/

* at Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:51 +0100

*

* Converted to RFC 822 at swiba9.unibas.ch

* at Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:39:10 +0100

*

* Delivery Report Contents:

*

* Subject-Submission-Identifier:

[/PRMD=3Dswitch/ADMD=3D400net/C=3DCH/;<v01510109acee452c5a6e@[131.152.]

* Content-Identifier: Re: message

* Subject-Intermediate-Trace-Information:

/PRMD=3Dswitch/ADMD=3D400net/C=3DCH/arrival Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:46 +0100 a=
ction

Relayed

* Content-Correlator: Subject: Re: message,

* Message-ID: <v01510109acee452c5a6e@[131.152.14.21]>,

* To: Tim Stabler <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

* Recipient-Info: TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu,

* /RFC-822=3DTSTABLER(a)iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu/PRMD=3DInternet/ADMD=
=3D

/C=3Dus/;

* FAILURE reason Unable-To-Transfer (1);

* diagnostic Unrecognised-ORName (0);

* last trace (ia5-text) Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:46 +0100;

* converted eits ia5-text;

* supplementary info "Nameserver error for
* iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu: Non existent host/domain (NXDOMAIN);
***** End of administration information

----- Start of forwarded message 1

Received: from yogi.urz.unibas.ch by swiba9.unibas.ch with SMTP (PP);
Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:46 +0100
Received: from [131.152.14.21] (tika1.bioz.unibas.ch)
by ubaclu.unibas.ch (PMDF V4.3-7 #7496)
id <01HYKTE520HS8X14MK@ubaclu.unibas.ch>;
Fri, 8 Dec 1995 20:38:53 +0200
From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [1100] Re: exam
Message-ID: <199512080546.WAA19208@usr5.primenet.com>

At 11:59 PM 12/7/95 EST, Russell W. White wrote:
>This is a bit off of the subject, but this is my last resort. Where
>can I find, for downloading, a program for studying for, and taking
>practice tests for, the General Class License?
> The General test question pool was updated July, 1994 and the
>only programs I have found have been for the earlier question pool.

Russ,

Check out www.primenet.com/~aa7tq

He has all the latest exam stuff. He and I run a VE team, testing the 3rd
Sat of every month at the Tempe, AZ public Library (Rural & Southern).
Questions? Give me a call at 838-1215.

73, de Roger

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: stan@surf82.cruzio.com
Subject: [1135] RE: FOX!
Message-ID: <Chameleon.951208161817.stan@surf82.cruzio.com>

E-mail: stan@.cruzio.com
From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: gtkq4al@qnet.com (Grover T.)
Subject: [1105] Re: Homebrew

Message-ID: <m0t02q8-000180C@lute.QNET.COM>

At last, a literate, rational exposition of the subject. Thank you kind sir. I would like to believe that it will be the final word, but, I won't hold my breath.

72 y Paz.....Grover

> In the interest of exposing my anonymity, I will succumb to my emotions, and offer up my perspective. Nothing like beating a dead horse :-)

>

> As a Receiver design engineer, I likely have an ability quite beyond that of the average ham, and there are indeed many within our ranks are skilled in the art better than I. There are however many excellent operators who all but overwhelmed by the notion of conceiving a receiver or transmitter architecture in functional block diagram form much less doing detailed circuit design and analysis. Members from both groups are likely following this dialog. Yet even I have failed to acknowledge the neophytes attempting to understand the notion of QRP and whether it is an appropriate element of the hobby that they can share.

>

> QRP (presumably the focus of this forum) is an art form that pushes the envelope in all directions. Truly the "king" of QRP must possess both a mastery of the engineering sciences, and immeasurable operating skill. I doubt that we are yet intimate enough with one another to agree upon who comes closest to such a standard. Several seem to stand out as "exceptional" as one follows the various subjects under discussion, but clearly no one person has risen to the position of "Mr. Know-It-All" (meant to be a title of respect, and not the sarcastic moniker it might imply).

>

> So how does one level the playing field such that all can compete with fairness to those who lack specialized skill? QRP almost by necessity demands some level of familiarity with diagonal cutters and soldering pencils. It is quite out of the ordinary to convince a radio manufacturer that his customers want transmitters with minimum output power. The notion simply sounds a bit too contradictory in marketing circles. Nonetheless; there is a need among this group at least for such commodities. Therefore we build what we can't buy. God bless the kit manufacturers who give those who lack engineering talent an opportunity to shine in their own area of expertise... that of keen operating skill.

>

> You should all now have a slight sense of where my heart is, so I offer the following philosophy on what should be termed homebrew. Quite simply, and hardware that requires more than the token "some assembly required", or "batteries not included", or "plug-and-play" is indeed homebrew, and puts all on equal footing. Here is why:

>

> If all build their equipment from kits, some will do better than others,

>and the best will perform best. Some will have trouble, seek help getting it
>up and running, and learn far more than they bargained for in the process. A
>grand reward in its own right. Engineering skill is not required, but lots of
>TLC, and careful attention to details is. I enjoy building kits over designing
>my own when I want something that looks nice. I have seen a great many kits,
>or more accurately "kit attempts" than were abandoned simply because the
>builder lacked the tenacity to delve into the instructions more carefully. It
>really does take a higher level of skill to build kits than it does to operate
>appliances... although I will acknowledge that HT programming is one possible
>exception :-)

>

> A design built from a journal article or handbook would suggest that the
>builder has a higher confidence level. This group can tell resistors from
>capacitors, inductors from fuses, etc. The confidence therefore is likely
>deserved, and if not, this person too will learn much more than what he/she
>bargained for. Oh what a joy! Nonetheless; if this person were building a kit,
>one would expect a high probability of success.

>

> Now you get those of us with real engineering talent. This stuff is so
>simple, that we just throw stuff together and know that it will work...

>

> "Hmmm. now why isn't that doing what I want it to do???"

>

> Well... we sometimes (nearly always) think "I can do better than that!",
>which produces one of two results... We can... or we can't. If we are able to
>get another percent or two of efficiency, a half dB or so better sensitivity,
>extended receiver dynamic range, razor sharp selectivity, et al, we darn sure
>deserve accolades for such a feat... If you don't believe me... just ask us :-)
>The good news, is that the kits are pretty good designs already, and although
>we may be able to engineer slightly better equipment performance, there will
>always be an operator out there with just slightly better hearing and a whole
>lot better operating skill. They were developing operating skill while we were
>developing engineering skill. So guess what... we achieve roughly equivalent
>results.

>

> If those of us who homebrew from the pencil up do a less than adequate
>job and are too bull headed to admit it, we end up operating with inferior
>equipment... Gee... too bad... Guess who has the edge now? It is important to
>recognize that this was my choice. I too could have built the kit, but I had
>this wild idea that I could do better than that... I took that risk and lost.
>I have no right to penalize the kit builder for my mistakes.

>

> In theory; if all built kits, all would be on equal ground. This is true.
>However; if I extend myself, and go beyond the kit phase, there should be some
>reward for success. If no reward exists, motivation is suppressed. If there is
>a reward, and I win... everybody wins, because the technology (kits) gets
>refined to bring them up to "state of the art".

>

> More important than all of the above; kit building is an added dimension
> to our hobby, that encourages (perhaps only because of the cost savings) those
> just entering our ranks to grow beyond passing the test. It is a great way to
> get your feet wet with some level of confidence toward success. From its
> beginnings, ham radio continues to push new frontiers in communications
> technology. It is more difficult than ever to jump start beginners, and to
> categorize kits as something short of homebrew is arrogant and just plain
> wrong. It creates an attitude that kit builders are something less than up to
> standards. They are a subclass of the amateur radio community. Bah humbug...
> I say let the kit building begin... Have no fear... if I tackle a kit, I'm
> surely going to try to make it better... I'll lose a lot of good operating time
> failing in the effort, the result will not look as pretty, and when I do
> succeed, I'll be so rusty in my operating skill that I (and most certainly
> you) will be unable to detect any significant improvement.
>
> You can wake up now... I'm done!
>
> Happiest of holidays to all, and always remember... If you operate QRP,
> 90 percent of the time performance is limited by the skill of the receiving
> operator, the other 10 percent of the time... a keyboard at the transmitting
> end might help :-)
>
> 73 de N3GO / Raleigh, NC
>
>
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [1096] Re: Homebrew VS. Kits
Message-ID: <951207193058_66837880@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Hi Dave, Pat and the gang,

Practically all homebrew rigs are harder to use, then practically any commercial rig. Try QSYing to 15m to see if there is any activity on a homebrew rig. Either change the band module or change rigs. it takes time. On a commercial rig, it takes only a one button to toggle the VFO to B, a few seconds at most. Any homebrew rig is more of a challenge to use in a contest, especially if the band is crowded and strong signals are overloading your single conversion superhet or DC receiver.

Then again, getting 5000 bonus points for making one contact on 80m ???? and another 5000 pts for one contact on 15m ???? and 40m and 20m and 10m. thats 25000 points for 5 contacts.

Using a homebrew rig is more difficult but is it worth 5000 pts for just the first contact you make? not a fair way to equalize testers. The only good approach i can come up with, is different categories

How many people would enter a homebrew contest, if they had to build their transceiver from scratch ? Not many.

Instead of point bonuses. they should have different classes. true homebrew against true homebrew. kit builders against kit builders, and commercial rig users against comm rig users.

with three classes of rigs, you can equalize the categories somewhat.

Then theres the guy with the 80 ft tower and 800 dollar monster beam running a 1 watt rig, competing against the dipole or vertical users, and scoring hundreds of thousands of points. thats not fair either. How about saying, no towers can be used. Antennas must be no higher than 50 ft and not be attached to a tower. That should help level the playing field.

Would there be enough participation to make it an active contest ? Would you be interested in being in such a contest ?

In the past, I've competed (as a one operator station) against entire clubs, against multi operator stations, against guys with 4500 dollar transceivers and monster towers, rotors and beams. I console myself by saying, i'm just trying to improve my cw speed or contesting ability, but I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I can never get in the top ten with the competition using 10,000 dollar (and more) stations, even with QRP power levels. Bonus points just dont work.

We have to decide if we're competing aggressively to win, or just to have fun.

Its great to have a 80 ft tower and run 1 watt and work the world. For most of us, this is a distant dream and will probably not happen in our life time. But for seeing how we stack up, as operators, against each other. we need to find a way to level the playing field. Then I think we'll see some real growth in QRP contesting. over the last two years, I havent seen the participation increase much, considering the hundreds of QRP kit rigs sold. thats surprising. Are most of these rigs sitting on a shelf somewhere, not being used ?

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [1098] Re: Homebrew VS. Kits
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.951207211724.1673A-100000@vortex>

Hi all,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [1099] Re: Homebrew VS. Kits
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.951207211816.1673B-100000@vortex>

Hi Byron,

I used to think that I couldn't win a contest because I didn't have lots of big dollar items.

Then I went to one of the DX conventions and watched some of the real top contesters play games with things like copying how many calls there were in a pile up etc. (I got about 20 and the winner had over 120!)

After spending years believing I was good enough to win, I found out that the real reason I wasn't winning is that I am just not good enough to win!

That's when I moved out of that top class and started to enter as a QRP station and usually single band. That put me in a class with other who were at about the same level as me. I had a chance! Then contesting became fun again.

I would be willing to bet that most of us who enjoy some relaxed contesting would be loose to the top ten type of ops even if we were using the big stations and they had only modest little stations.....

Trying to make lots of classes by who put which part where and how, would any one be interested in little contests using the same rigs? NorCal 40a's, Sierras, 4040's and other kits. Then do the same with rigs from mag articles. Or who got the best job done with a dipole

under 50' high?..... yagi under 50'..... over 50'..... etc

But do this only as a "side bet" and not as part of the contest rules. Maybe have an "Entry Fee" like sending in some parts with your log to the official checker of logs and the winner in your class gets the parts.....

Then again, if you use a tuner, you have to deduct 10% from your net score, before adding in the foreign multipliers but after adjusting the score for the noise level.

See what happens when you open a can of worms? :-) cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17.....ARRL.....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Hank Kohl K8DD <k8dd@tir.com>
Subject: [1132] Re: Looking for PC Logging Program
Message-ID: <9512082238.AA09994@sun>

At 14:09 12/07/95 EST, you wrote:

>Hello All

>

>I am looking for a logging program for my PC. I have seen a few
>freeware and shareware logging programs but I don't know which one is
>better than the other.

>

>Thanx.....Paul

With freeware and shareware logging programs you get what you pay for!

Just an opinion.

If you take a freeware or shareware logging program, change some code,
is it home brew?

Just a question.

Aren't we taking this homebrew/kit/commercial/purchased a bit too seriously
for a hobby?

Just a thought.

*/
*/ Hank Kohl K8DD k8dd@tir.com
*/ MI-QRP QRP-ARCI G-QRP NorCal
*/ ARRL/LM QCWA/LM QCAO/LM
*/

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Bill Acito 08-Dec-1995 0901 <acito@asdg.ENERG.dec.com>
Subject: [1109] re: Manufacturing Surplus parts.
Message-ID: <9512081402.AA16027@us1rmc.bb.dec.com>

|Someone was asking about enclosures for home projects etc. I didn't make a
|note of whom. In any case, if you check out our Web Page (below) we have a
|few items there that might be of interest. All of the items are new but
|surplus from one of our manufacturing runs. I believe one of our readers,
|Bill Acito, purchased one and would attest to the quality.

I attest, I attest!

: -)

b

. - I own my own words -
Bill Acito
acito@asdg.energ.dec.com
|d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Digital Equipment Corporation Hudson, MA

KC1GS ... qrp-ne ... qrp-l ... qrp-arci ... norcal ... arrl life ...

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
Subject: Re: message

Message-id: <v01510109acee452c5a6e@[131.152.14.21]>

>Thanks for your phone call. The people at the computer center tell
>me they are receiving messages all the time. I even get 2-3/day.
>They are not sure what is wrong.
>
>Reply to me that you got this. If you get it back, check the address
>and see how far the message got. If need be, you could put a message
>on "qrp-1@lehigh.edu". Use my name in the text body like:
> "Tim, you message got as far as..... ; that should explain
>part of your problem"
>
>This is an amateur radio net and I do not want to take up too much
>space there. The people there might get irritated.
>
>Thanks again so much. I will get this settled yet. I feel I may be
>missing too much.
>
>Tim Stabler
>Indiana University Northwest
>
>tstabler@iunhaw1.iun,indiana.edu
>
>219-980-6718

hi,
test reply

Thomas Burglin (German spelling: B=3DFCrglin)
burglin@ubaclu.unibas.ch

----- End of forwarded message 1

Thomas Burglin (German spelling: B=FCrglin)
burglin@ubaclu.unibas.ch

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: WD6BOR@aol.com
Subject: [1141] Re: parts FAQ?
Message-ID: <951208211956_48790995@emout06.mail.aol.com>

First stop for a list of parts suppliers is the ARRL Handbook. There was a lot of email on the list recently about the cost of the Handbook. Considering the wealth of information available (it is the one electronics book I would want if stranded on a desert island... IOTA?) it is worth the equivalent of several hundreds of dollars of technical publications.

Our local club has put copies of the Handbook in our local high and junior high school as well as the local library through the ARRL's Library Pack program. You might want to check your own local library for a copy.

Darrel WD6BOR

(insert provocative and clever saying here)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>
Subject: [1122] RE: Quick battery question
Message-ID: <47252.owen@apollo.eeel.nist.gov>

In message Fri, 8 Dec 1995 11:31:57 EST,
John_Foote_at_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com writes:

> I got two lead acid batteries from Mouser, 6 VDC 10 ah each.
>
>
> Now, if I want to charge them but I don't have a "charger" can I
> connect them (in series) to my Astron 13.8 VDC supply through a
> current limiting resistor, sized to keep charging current to .1C or
> essentially less than 1 amp?
>

Of course you may do this but I don't think you really need the resistor. There are two ways to charge a Gel-Cell (or any other Lead Acid) Constant current, which most of us use when we use the automotive type of battery charger or Constant Voltage which is usually the preferred method. With an Astron set at 13.8V you have constant voltage charging automatically. Under this condition the battery will pull an initial higher current, maybe 5-10 amps for a minute or so and then will drop to a much lower rate of an amp or less, this depends on the state of charge and the battery internal resistance. These are the conditions under which most standby batteries are charged and gives the longest life to the battery. In other words, set the power supply to a constant voltage of about 13.8V, connect the battery and don't worry about the initial current or the longer term charging current. The battery will take whatever it requires and even if left on continuously it will not be overcharged.

If you use Constant Current charging then you should set the voltage somewhere around 14.5 volts, include a series current limiting resistor to get .1C (in your case 1 Amp) and charge for 16 hours and then turn off the charger. The battery voltage should climb to the voltage the power supply is set for when it (the battery) is not connected. Under these conditions the battery can be overcharged if you forget to disconnect after 16 hours.

> I assume that when the batteries are fully charged the voltage at
> the batteries will be about 13.8 V (2.30 v per cell) and the
> charging current will have fallen to essentially zero.
>

Under Constant Voltage charging the battery voltage can never exceed the charging voltage, in this case 13.8V and the current will be whatever the battery decides it needs.

> I've neever done this before, I think I'm right, but I've heard that
> lead acid batteries make a heck of a mess when forced into the
> extreme non-optimum mode of operation.

A vented (automobile) battery will make a mess if greatly overcharged as it WILL vent some acid. A Gel-Cell usually will not but may get hot and under severe overcharging the case may crack or the emergency vent may open but it will release almost no acid and I have never seen an ACID MESS even from a Gel-Cell with a badly cracked case.

72/73 Jim K4CGY QRP-1 #72

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)
Subject: [1142] Re: Theory of Regen receiver?
Message-ID: <199512090251.SAA12238@ix4.ix.netcom.com>

>
>Anyone have a quick reference to an article or short text that will
>give me the general idea of how the regen receiver works?...

The current issue of Communications Quarterly has a long (about 20 pages) article on regens, both old and new, including Armstrong's original patent schematic and some solid-state versions.

73,
Mike, KK6GM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 9 03:13:00 1995
From: Phil Wheeler <pcw@netcom.com>
Subject: [1107] Re: Vanity Calls
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9512080719.A17939-01000000@netcom7>

Yes, someone is offering such a list (might be W5YI). But for gate 1,
you can only get a call you previously held (i.e., no list needed).

Phil (pcw@netcom.com)